



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0285

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yasukazu IWASAKI

Title: FUEL REFORMING SYSTEM

Appl. No.: 10/048,023

Filing Date: 01/28/2002

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1764

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on October 26, 2004. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references.

According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action, documents B1 and B2 disclose a hydrocarbon reformer for generating a hydrogen-rich reformate using gas including vaporous fuel and oxygen in which the temperature of the catalyst portion is detected in order to control the ratio of the rate of the vaporous fuel against that of oxygen according to the detected temperature (See claim 3, paragraphs [0005], [0006], [0012], [0030] – [0039] of document B1; claim 1, page 1, the left-upper column, line 1-page 4, line 20 of document B2).

According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action, documents B3 and B4 teach a controlling method of fuel gas composition for heating the vaporous fuel according to the detected temperature of the gaseous fuel which is a material that is provided in a reformer in order to respond to a fluctuation [in temperature] during operation (See claims, paragraph [0008], and embodiments (the statement on a temperature detector disposed at an entrance of a reaction portion 5a, in particular) of document B3; claim 3, and paragraphs [0016] and [0056] of document B4).

As noted, the characterizations of the Japanese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement with the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, English language abstracts are provided herewith. Consequently, the foreign language documents have been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and, therefore, the documents should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/048,023
				Filing Date	01/28/2002
				First Named Inventor	Yasukazu IWASAKI
				Group Art Unit	1764
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Attorney Docket Number	040302-0285
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.